

~~TOP SECRET EIDER~~

~~BRIDE~~

(Re-nine)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No: 1787, 1247

19 December 1944

To VIKTOR.[i]

ROBERT[ii] handed over a Top Secret telegram of the COUNTRY's[iii] legation [MISSIYa] in Switzerland of 10th November drawn up on the basis of information from the German Aviation industrialists:

"Disposition of German fighter aircraft strength: Balkans 500, Strategic reserve 3000 of which 2[000] on the Eastern front and 1 on the Western front and in Germany. (Legation note: No evidence here of existence of strategic reserve. Possibly this in other words means aircraft of a scarcely usable nature). Eastern front 2000, Western and Germany 2200. In October the number of bombers on hand all active aircraft 6100.

In comparison with Anglo-American, the majority of German aircraft is obsolete.

Full effort of the industry ~~can~~ could produce <sup>mainly</sup> about 900 machines of all types mostly underground but it is hoped that [19 groups unrecoverable]

Messerschmidt [MESSERSHMITT]. For carrying and launching flying bombs [3 groups unrecovered]

Heinkel 111. Production of Mark 52s drastically curtailed.

Dornier factory at Friedrichshafen again operating in spite of air attacks and furthermore is producing new types of fighter.

MET -210 (Twin engine fighter) is increasingly used. The most powerful of German fighter planes is the Heinkel 177. Again there is no lack of ground and air crews. In industrial and military aviation circles the attitude towards the position of the German Air Force is pessimistic.

This information relates to October.

No.968

MAJ[iv]

ROBERT[ii] handed over a secret telegram of worker of the COUNTRY HOUSE [DACHNIK][v] KENNAN [KENNAN] to the BANK[vi] of 17th November:

"Yesterday I had a frank conversation with some highly placed persons about speeding things up. According to local [15 groups unrecoverable]

representatives and departments. In addition there were two special causes of delay not connected with us, which I shall communicate ..... have never been so bored and cold as now when for days and weeks on end I have had to be idle but shall of course stick it to the end".

Note: [5 groups unrecovered] but we hope it is of interest.

No.969

MAJ.

Comment: [i] Lt. General P.M. FITIN  
[ii] Nathan Gregory SILVERMASTER  
[iii] U.S.A.  
[iv] Stepan APRESYaN  
[v] U.S. Embassy in Moscow  
[vi] State Department

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